

REMARKS

This Response and Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action dated July 5, 2006.

Claims 2-8, 10-30, 32, and 33 are pending in this application. The Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's allowance of Claims 11, 12, and 27-30, and the Examiner's indication that Claims 6-8 and 22-23 contain allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, Claims 2-4, 6, 13, 16, 18, 19, 21, 26, 32, and 33 are amended and Claim 10 is cancelled, leaving Claims 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 20, 22-25, and 27-30 unchanged.

On page 2 of the Office Action, Claims 2-5, 10, 13-21, 24-26, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,836,737 issued to Hashimoto et al. (hereinafter "Hashimoto"). The Applicant would like to bring to the Examiner's attention that Claim 33 was added in the previous Amendment to this Application as a new claim, but was not examined in the July 5, 2006 Office Action.

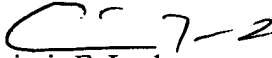
The Applicant has rewritten objected-to Claim 6 in independent form including the limitations of the base claim (Claim 10). As such, newly-independent Claim 6 is allowable.

Claims 2-5, 7, 8, 13-26, 32, and 33 are ultimately dependent upon newly-independent Claim 6, and are believed to be allowable based upon the allowability of newly-independent Claim 6 and upon other features and elements recited in Claims 2-5, 7, 8, 13-26, 32, and 33 but not discussed herein.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks presented herein, it is respectfully submitted that the claims as amended are in condition for allowance. The Applicant kindly requests that the Examiner telephone the undersigned in the event a telephone discussion would be helpful in advancing the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,


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